

Customer No.: 31561  
Docket No.: 10353-US-PA-OP  
Application No.: 10/711,237

REMARKS

Present Status of Application

Claims 1-8 remain pending in the application. The Office Action mailed December 19, 2005, indicated that claims 2-4 and 7-8 were objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Weld (Us Patent No. 5,696,405).

Claim 1 has been amended by merging the limitation of claim 2, while claim 2 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the specification, claims and drawings. This Amendment is promptly filed to place the above-captioned case in condition for allowance. After entering the amendments, a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Allowable subject matter

The Office Action mailed December 19, 2005, has indicated that claims 2-4 and 7-8 were objected to be dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciates this indication of allowable subject matter.

Customer No.: 31561  
Docket No.: 10353-US-PA-0P  
Application No.: 10/711,237

**Discussion for 35 USC§102 rejections**

*Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Weld (Us Patent No. 5,696,405).*

The Applicant has carefully considered the remarks set forth in the Office Action. Claim 1 has been amended by merging the limitation of claim 2, according to the suggestion of the Office Action. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Applicants submit that amended independent claim 1 patently defines over the prior references for at least the reason that the cited reference fails to disclose each and every feature as claimed in the present invention.

Accordingly, the structure of the present invention is patentably distinct from the prior art reference Weld because Weld fails to disclose all limitations of independent claim 1, and all pending claims patently define over the cited reference and should be allowed.

Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of these 102 rejections are respectfully requested.

Customer No.: 31561  
Docket No.: 10353-US-PA-0P  
Application No.: 10/711,237

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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